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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

*[on the report of the Second Committee (A/64/420/Add.5)]*

### 64/202. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

*Reasserting its commitment* to combating and reversing desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, consistent with articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, and to mitigating the effects of drought, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development and food security and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by drought and/or desertification, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),[2]

*Reaffirming* the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the decision adopted in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 3 July 2009 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirteenth ordinary session, authorizing the African Union to accede to the Convention,[3]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] A/C.2/62/7, annex.

[3] African Union, document Assembly/AU/Dec.1-5 (XIII), decision Assembly/AU/Dec.255 (XIII). Available from www.africa-union.org.

*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] in which the Convention is recognized as one of the tools for poverty eradication, and reiterating its resolve to eradicate extreme poverty,

*Noting* the need for enhanced cooperation among the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] and the Convention on Biological Diversity[6] ("the Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development regarding desertification, land degradation and drought,[7]

*Concerned* by the increasing frequency and severity of dust/sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

*Concerned also* by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner, and recognizing also the interrelationship between climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and the need to intensify efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management,

*Recognizing* the need for investment in sustainable land management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework,

*Recognizing also* the need to strengthen the scientific basis underpinning the Convention,

*Recognizing further* the importance given by the ten-year strategic plan and framework to the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Argentina for hosting the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Buenos Aires from 21 September to 2 October 2009,

*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, in autumn 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[8]

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[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 9* (E/2009/29).

[8] A/64/202, sect. II.

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its policy recommendations, particularly those related to the strengthening of the institutional policy framework and the implementation of practical measures to combat land degradation and desertification in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, enhancing capacity-building, transfer of technology and financing;

3. *Recognizes* the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard invites all relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate with the Convention[1] in supporting an effective response to desertification and drought;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to integrate plans and strategies related to drought, desertification and land degradation into their national development and poverty eradication strategies, as appropriate;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the promotion and strengthening of relationships between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;[2]

6. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3] the Convention on Biological Diversity[4] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities in the work of the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

7. *Encourages* actions to promote sustainable management of soil as one means for mitigating the effects of drought in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;

8. *Invites* Member States and related organizations to cooperate in sharing information, forecasting and early warning systems related to dust/sandstorms;

9. *Takes note* of the launch of the Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes in Buenos Aires in September 2009 during the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which aims to promote research, education, training and outreach relevant to the sustainable use of drylands;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on Science and Technology, and, in this respect, welcomes the outcome of the first United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, held in the context of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[5] as well as the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session[6] requesting the Bureau of the ninth session, together with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Executive Secretary, and taking into account the views of other interested relevant entities such as the host countries and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and

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[1] ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1, decision 8/COP.9.

[2] See A/64/379.

[3] ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1, decision 6/COP.9.

potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution or organization to house the Global Mechanism, taking into account the scenarios presented in the Joint Inspection Unit assessment of the Global Mechanism and the need to avoid duplication and overlap in the work of the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and further requesting the Bureau to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session a report on this evaluation for consideration and decision on the issue of reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism;

12. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to promote awareness among local populations, particularly women, youth and civil society organizations, and to include them in, the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018), and encourages affected States parties and donors to take into account the issue of participation of civil society in Convention processes when setting priorities in national development strategies, in conformity, inter alia, with the comprehensive communication strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session;

13. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to ensure that the Facility is adequately resourced during the next replenishment period in order to allow it to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to its six focal areas, in particular its land degradation focal area;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue the administrative renewal and reform of the secretariat and to realign its functions in order to fully implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and bring those functions into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework;

15. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2010-2011 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the implementation of the Convention.

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rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

*Recognizing* the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention by States parties in order to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to comprehensively address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

*Reaffirming* that the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the Convention,

*Recalling*, in this regard, the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] in which all States reaffirmed their engagement to fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,

*Noting* the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[4] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Acknowledging* the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Noting* the important contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

*Recalling* its resolution 63/219, in which it decided to convene, during its sixty-fifth session in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government,

*Convinced* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, to be convened at its sixty-fifth session in 2010, with the participation of Heads of State, Governments and delegations, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, provides a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

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[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

*Taking note* of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,[6]

*Noting* the continuing efforts of the Life Web initiative promoted by the Government of Germany and other countries,

*Noting also* the initiative launched at the meeting of the environment ministers of the Group of Eight in Potsdam, Germany, in March 2007, to develop a study on the economic cost of the global loss of biodiversity,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[7]

2. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation,[8] as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

4. *Takes note* of decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on access and benefit-sharing, and the annexes thereto,[9] by which the Conference established a road map for the negotiations set out in that decision and, inter alia:

(*a*) Reiterated its instruction to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international access and benefit-sharing regime at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with decisions VII/19 D[10] and VIII/4 A;[11]

(*b*) Further instructed the Working Group to finalize the international regime and to submit for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting an instrument or instruments to effectively implement the provisions of articles 15 and 8 (*j*) of the Convention and its three objectives, without in any way prejudging or precluding any outcome regarding the nature of such instrument or instruments;

5. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the progress made thus far in the Working Group, invites the Working Group to finalize the international regime, as instructed by the Conference of the Parties, emphasizes the importance of the

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[6] Available from http://millenniumassessment.org.

[7] A/64/202, chap. III.

[8] UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-TTSTC/1/5, annex III.

[9] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.

[10] See UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex.

[11] See UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, annex.

meeting of the Working Group to be held in March 2010, and in this regard also notes with appreciation the offer of Colombia to host the meeting;

6. *Underlines* the need to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity, and in this regard notes the discussions on an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the holding of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, of the chairpersons of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[4] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

8. *Encourages* the efforts being made to implement the seven thematic programmes of work, as established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the ongoing work on cross-cutting issues;

9. *Encourages* all parties to the Convention to continue to contribute to the discussions leading to an updated strategic plan for the Convention to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind that this strategic plan should cover all three objectives of the Convention, and emphasizes that the revision of the strategic plan beyond 2010 is important for the enhanced implementation of the Convention;

10. *Notes* the progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

12. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization[12] in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision IX/11 and the annexes thereto,[9] invites parties that have not yet done so to submit, to the secretariat of the Convention, views on concrete activities and initiatives, including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy, and on indicators to monitor its implementation;

13. *Takes note* of decision IX/20 of the Conference of the Parties on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the annexes thereto,[9] by which the Conference, inter

[12] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11 B, annex.

alia, adopted a set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, contained in annex I to the decision, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, contained in annex II;

14. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in achieving biodiversity targets, and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships;

15. *Notes* the development of the gender plan of action under the Convention, and invites parties to support the implementation of the plan by the Convention secretariat;

16. *Takes note* of decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties on biodiversity and climate change, and the annexes thereto,[9] by which the Conference, inter alia, established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity insofar as it relates to climate change;

17. *Also takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change,[10] established by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IX/16 on biodiversity and climate change;

18. *Further takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

19. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

20. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

21. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

22. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[11]

23. *Decides*, in follow-up to its resolution 63/219, to convene the one-day high-level meeting as close as possible to the opening of the general debate of the

[10] UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-TTSIC/1/5.

[11] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2–13 November 2001* (C2001/REP), appendix D.

sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and in that regard:

(*a*) Encourages all Member States to be represented at the highest possible level, including by Heads of State or Government;

(*b*) Invites heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly, as well as the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to participate, as appropriate, in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

(*c*) Decides that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the meeting;

(*d*) Decides that the meeting will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by thematic panels in the morning and the afternoon, organized within existing resources, which will address in a balanced manner the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(*e*) Decides also that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and requests the President to prepare a summary of the discussions held during the high-level meeting, for presentation at the closing plenary and for transmission, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, as a contribution to raising awareness of the three objectives of the Convention;

(*f*) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States;

24. *Encourages* all Member States, relevant regional and international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including through voluntary contributions, taking advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Encourages* all relevant organs of the United Nations, including functional commissions and regional commissions, as well as all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in, as appropriate, the activities envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, taking into consideration the strategy and implementation plan for the commemoration of the Year prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through a special event or special focus in their annual governing body meetings or high-level ministerial segments and in their annual flagship publications scheduled for 2010;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 11 to 15 October 2010, and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya from 18 to 29 October 2010;

27. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session information on the implementation of resolution 61/203 and the parts of the present resolution relevant to the commemoration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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*Taking note also* of the developments in the area of global efforts in relation to chemicals management, including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the preparations for the negotiations on the global legally binding instrument on mercury,

*Reiterating* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Taking note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system"[1] and the note by the Secretary-General thereon,[2]

*Taking note also* of decision 25/10 of 20 February 2009 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session[4] and the decisions contained therein;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Environmental Programme, and encourages the further strengthening of efforts, to shift emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and in this regard takes note of the approval of the programme of work and the budget for the period 2010–2011;

3. *Underlines* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[3] with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the decision to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan as an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme's medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the medium-term strategy for the period 2010–2013;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations,

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[1] JIU/REP/2008/3.

[2] See A/64/83/Add.1-E/2009/83/Add.1.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/64/25).

[4] Ibid., annex I.

[5] See UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage actively and cooperate closely to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including by providing adequate resources;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to hold a simultaneous extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali immediately before the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

8. *Reaffirms* the need, while recognizing the efforts and actions taken to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, in the area of protection of the environment, including through the provision of adequate financial resources, and in this respect emphasizes the importance of building on the experiences gained from the preparation of different global environmental assessments as well as other relevant developments in this field;

9. *Recognizes* the global challenges posed by mercury, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;[1]

10. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to conduct comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, in the light of the continuing need for up-to-date, scientifically credible, policy-relevant information on environmental change worldwide, and in this regard encourages the Programme to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment, leading to the preparation of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series,[2] which should inform, as appropriate, the strategic directions of the Programme;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations "Delivering as One" exercise at the country level;

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/64/25), annex I, decision 25/5.

[2] Ibid., decision 25/2.

12. *Welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

13. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

14. *Underscores* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review, so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session".

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*21 December 2009*